

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
 USIA-06 SSM-03 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 CA-01
 OES-07 /094 W

-----005068 161540Z /23

R 160910Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 724
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, IS, SF
SUBJECT: ISRAELI ECONOMY AND SOUTH AFRICAN JEWS

REF: STATE 63915

1. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL SA STATISTICS FOR 1977, 189 INDIVIDUALS IMMIGRATED TO SA FROM ISRAEL AND 781 EMIGRATED FROM SA TO ISRAEL.
2. NORMAL SA EXCHANGE CONTROLS APPLY TO ISRAEL. BANKS HAVE AUTHORITY TO APPROVE TRANSFERS OF UP TO R100/MONTH FOR AIDING CLOSE FAMILY MEMBERS IN NECESSITOUS CIRCUMSTANCES, SUBJECT TO STRICT DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE. AN ANNUAL AUTHORITY WITH THE AMOUNT VARYING FROM YEAR TO YEAR PERMITS SA ZIONIST FEDERATION TO MAKE CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION TO ISRAEL.
3. SA EMIGRANTS TO ISRAEL OR ANYWHERE ELSE MAY TRANSFER HALF OF CAPITAL ASSETS, WITH MINIMUM OF R10,000 AND MAXIMUM OF R30,000. MEANS EXIST FOR REMAINDER OF UP

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TO R30,000 TO BE TRANSFERRED AFTER 5 YEARS. CURRENT INCOME UP TO R100,000 MAY BE TRANSFERRED EACH YEAR. HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS UP TO R4,000 AND CAR MAY BE EXPORTED.

4. DURING RECENT VISIT OF FINANCE MINISTER EHRLICH, IT WAS AGREED SA WOULD APPROVE UP TO R44 MILLION OVER 3-1/2 YEARS FOR INVESTMENT IN ISRAEL. WHILE SPECIFICS

NOT YET ANNOUNCED, WE BELIEVE SUCH TRANSFERS WILL STILL HAVE TO MEET NORMAL CONDITIONS FOR APPROVAL OF INVESTMENTS ABROAD, ONE OF WHICH IS THAT THEY SERVE TO STIMULATE SA EXPORTS.

5. NO BREAKDOWN IS AVAILABLE OF MAGNITUDE OF FINANCIAL FLOWS FROM SA JEWRY TO ISRAEL.

6. COMMENT: ISRAELI OFFICIAL HERE REGARDS EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL AS OF LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE AND, UNLIKE JEWISH EMIGRANTS TO OTHER COUNTRIES, COMPOSED LARGELY OF PEOPLE WITH PIONEERING ATTITUDE. NEVERTHELESS, THEY ARE HIGHLY REGARDED IN ISRAEL BECAUSE OF THEIR QUALITIES AND SKILLS. HE NOTES THAT OF 120,000 JEWS IN SOUTH AFRICA, 20,000 ARE ISRAELI CITIZENS. HE ALSO POINTS OUT THAT SOUTH AFRICAN JEWS IN ISRAEL NUMBER ONLY 8,000, REFLECTING FACT THAT OVER THE YEARS PATTERN HAS BEEN TO MIGRATE FROM ISRAEL TO SA.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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